



The voice of British farming

NFU Successes

Beef & Sheep

- **Why Beef and Sheep Farming Matters'**
Following the success of the "Why Beef and Sheep Farming Matters" campaign the NFU continues to communicate key messages to consumers about the importance of livestock farming.
- **Promotion of Environmental Benefits**
The NFU works hard to promote the environmental benefits of livestock production. In conjunction with EBLEX we produced the Beef and Sheep production roadmap which tackles the issue of livestock in climate change. Phase 2 of the roadmap has now been published "Testing the Water" and illustrates how seriously the red meat industry is taking its environmental responsibilities and the positive story we have to tell.
- **Sheep EID**
The NFU lobbied successfully to achieve a delay in the implementation of individual recording of sheep using EID from 1st Jan 2008 until 31st Dec 2009. We have also secured a number of derogations and flexibilities such as the introduction of the electronic slaughter tag and the provision of central point recording, which has the ability to greatly reduce the financial and regulatory impact on many keepers. We are also lobbying to protect our members from being unfairly penalised under cross compliance inspections due to limitations in the technology which is outside the farmer's control. We continue to push for further concessions and ultimately a review of the regulation.
- **Sheep Movement Reporting**
The NFU identified concerns with DEFRA regarding the individual recording requirements for moves to temporary grazing under the new EID regulations. As a result we have successfully lobbied for the introduction of a robust interim batch movement reporting system. We are now lobbying to make sure that this interim measure becomes permanent.
- **Red Tractor**
The NFU continues to promote the use of and the values associated with the Red Tractor. Following recent discussions with ASDA we have seen them increase the size of the red tractor logo on their fresh beef packaging.
- **Reduced Inspections**
The total number of RPA cattle ID inspections has been reduced from 10% to 5% following concerted and prolonged pressure from the NFU. In our response to Macdonald's "Red Tape" Task Force we lobbied for risk based inspections where farmers membership in assurance schemes are taken into account thus lowering their risk level and frequency of inspection.
- **Combined Inspections**
The NFU has successfully reduced the burden of inspections on farmers by ensuring that where possible LVI TB Tests are combined with cattle identification inspections. This will minimise the burden and costs on livestock farmers.
- **Bluetongue**
The NFU has been a major stakeholder within the Joint Campaign Against Bluetongue (JAB). The campaign combined with NFU communications has kept farmers fully informed of the Bluetongue situation and encouraged vaccine uptake. As a result we have the UK may be in the position to be declared Bluetongue free later this year.
- **Deadweight marketing**
The National Livestock Board successfully lobbied the EU commission to improve transparencies in the deadweight marketing of beef. As a result we have seen the approval of 3 standard carcass specifications.

The voice of British farming

Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, neither the NFU nor the author can accept liability for errors and or omissions. © NFU





The voice of British farming

NFU Successes

Beef & Sheep

- **Strict controls on export conditions**

The NFU continues to monitor the standards of red meat imports into the EU and lobby for strict controls on export conditions. This follows prolonged lobbying which highlighted concerns over traceability, assurance, record keeping and animal health standards of Brazilian Beef and resulted in dramatically reduced import levels. This work will be particularly relevant with the reopening of the Mercosur discussion in Europe.

- **Immigration Rules**

NFU Lobbying has resulted in foreign sheep shearers being recognised by the home office as a scarce category and as a result they have been left outside the scope of the migration cap. This will ensure that foreign shearers are able to continue to offer UK sheep keepers a valuable service and ensure our exemplary standards of animal welfare are maintained.

- **Fallen Stock – Over 48 month cattle subsidy**

Along with the NFSCo the NFU successfully lobbied government for £2million to subsidise the collection of fallen stock over 48 month cattle. We also strongly endorsed the trials being carried out in Bangor University in alternative methods of disposal of fallen stock on farm.

- **TSE Rules**

The NFU successfully lobbied the FSA and DEFRA to increase the TSE testing age of bovines from 30 to 48mths as recommended by the Commission. We responded to the consultation on the TSE Roadmap 2 where we strongly recommended further relaxations to the TSE rules based on the latest scientific evidence and it has been recently announced that the BSE testing age can be raised to from 48 to 72 months after July of this year. We will continue lobby both DEFRA and the EU for a timely implementation of the proposals as laid out in the TSE Roadmap 2.

- **Fair deal for hill farmers**

The NFU has fought to get a fair deal for hill farmers after Defra announced plans to introduce an Upland Entry Level Scheme to replace the current Hill Farming Allowance during 2010. The new scheme comes after two years of detailed negotiations with Natural England and Defra. Defra is to introduce the Upland ELS as a 'supplement' to the current Entry Level Scheme from July 2010. It will offer annual payment in return for continued farm and landscape management.

The NFU has continued to lead the lobbying on lamb carcass splitting and as a result a trial is being developed to test alternative spinal cord removal methods in UK abattoirs.

Issue date: March 2011